

I urge you to leave unchanged -- or at least postpone a decision -- the rule on ownership of TV/radio/newspapers in the same market.

We have just been through a period of virtual "non-debate" in the media over whether to go to war in Iraq; and certainly a failure of public debate on the consequences afterwards. The media failed in its mission, in major part because of the dominance of a few large media enterprises with similar views and common efforts to prevent contending viewpoints from being aired/printed. Permitting even more concentration of ownership will restrict the possibilities for debate even further: it could prove tragic for our democracy. Again: please at least postpone your decision.